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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

The University of Illinois, a land grant college founded in 1868, is located 150 miles south of Chicago in the Twin Cities' complex of Champaign-Urbana. Population of the area is about 100,000. Enrollment numbers over 30,000 (and 8,500 teachers) and tuition is moderate.

For its size and composition the University of Illinois campus is reasonably conservative. There is a chapter of Students for a Democratic Society there but reliable reports place its present strength at about 30 with no more than 10 of this number regarded as "hard core" radical. The Champaign-Urbana SDS is not regarded as a particularly significant chapter. Other campuses in the Illinois system (Southern Illinois at Carbondale and the University of Illinois "Circle Campus" at Chicago) have demonstrated considerably more "anti" hostility than has the Champaign-Urbana college community. An extreme "rightist" counterforce is present at the University but just barely. The "Minutemen" group with a very small membership has, in recent years, staged a counter-demonstration or two regarded by local observers as feeble and meaningless.

Last September 27 the University Student Committee to End the War in Vietnam sponsored a demonstration and march to protest the war and police brutality (the latter cause was probably a reaction to the Chicago riots during the Democratic National Convention the previous month). During this protest 150 students marched from the Illini Union to Westside Park in Champaign and listened to radical speakers encourage membership in such left-wing organizations as the Young Socialist Alliance (youth group of the Trotskyite Socialist Workers Party), the SDS and the Peace and Freedom Party. This demonstration broke up peacefully with no reported incidents and no arrests. On November 14, 1968, Champaign again was the site of student anti-war protest, anti-war speeches, and a draft card burning (one burned and four returned to the draft board). Seventy-five persons participated peacefully.

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From 21 to 23 March 1969 a regional meeting of SDS was held on the Champaign-Urbana campus. Details of this meeting are unknown but if significant decisions were made by those chapters attending (reportedly eight mid-west chapters) those decisions did not manifest themselves in action terms at the Champaign-Urbana campus. In April, SDS mustered forty people for a campus rally in support of Huey Newton (Black Panther Party leader presently serving two to fifteen years in California for killing a San Francisco policeman) and a few students may have (probably did) taken part in the Easter anti-war march at Chicago.

There have been protest demonstrations against the radicals favorite "whipping boy," the harassed Dow Chemical Company recruiter but CIA and military recruiters have so far not been obstructed or subjected to harassment on the Champaign-Urbana Campus. Additionally, AFROTC has thus far escaped the treatment afforded fraternal military training chapters on other campuses by the radical left.

Racial disturbances have occurred in recent years both on the campus and in the Negro sections of the Twin Cities. The most serious campus racial rampage wrought \$5,000 damage to the Student Union building (Illini Union) and resulted in approximately 250 arrests (some persons arrested were non-students). This event was most regrettable because the demonstration was initiated by participants in the University's "Project 500." "Project 500" brought underprivileged blacks to the University for special training (without cost) and the "Project 500" enrollees were not even a part of the bonafide student body.

Recognized on campus is a Black Student Association which is involved in the same promotion of racial interests as similar college groups elsewhere. The University of Illinois chapter is reliably reported to be small and not a significant campus force. Approximately 700 Negro students are enrolled at the University (out of a total student population of over 30,000) and relations between the races is reported relatively good.

Last February a reliable source advised that the Chicago Black Panther Party minister of Defense, and two of his Lieutenants, traveled to the University to assist in organizing a Champaign-Urbana BPP chapter. There is presently no BPP chapter there. Additionally, rumors circulated last February

that racial disturbances were due to occur (including bombings) but none developed.

On 26 May 1969 racial trouble erupted in the Twin Cities. On this occasion, a local Negro leader appeared on television and announced that a Negro had been murdered in the county jail by white police officials (actual cause of death was reported by the coroner to be cirrhosis of the liver). This announcement touched off sniper activity and fire bombing both off and on the University of Illinois campus. One homemade bomb exploded unintentionally seriously injuring a University student. There were no arrests and the disturbance ended in the early morning hours of 27 May. One last racial happening occurred on 9 March 1969 when Biafran students at the University picketed the British Ambassador to the United Nations.

In conclusion, it is most reliably reported that although the .
troublemaking elements and microcosms are present at the University,
radicalism is diminishing and, in fact, dying out. Much depends on
the leadership of the moment and at this moment the powerful leader-
ship voices of dissension and disruption are not heard at Illinois.
September brings a new student crop and perhaps new crises but for
now, neither the patterns of the recent past nor the well-informed
and responsible observations of the present portend serious trouble
immediately ahead at Illinois.

The week before last, the Illinois state legislature passed and sent to Governor Richard B. Ogilvie, for signature, a bill that will make nearly every aspect of student revolt a state crime punishable by stiff fines and up to five years in prison. The Lanigan bill (State Senator John J. Lanigan, republican, Chicago) which passed the house by a 2 to 1 margin makes sit-ins and building occupations punishable by fines up to \$1,000 and sentences up to one year in jail. The Governor is expected to sign the bill into law.